

In the Claims

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Twice amended) A microscope slide stainer with random access slide staining capability comprising:

a moving platform;

a plurality of heating stations [on] moving with the platform, each heating station adapted to support at least one microscope slide bearing a biological sample[s] and comprising a heating element; and

electronic control for heating the [individual] heating stations [surfaces].

2. (Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of the heating [surfaces] stations supports a single microscope slide.

(Amended) A microscope slide stainer with random access slide staining capability comprising:

a moving platform adapted to carry microscope slides, said moving platform moving the slides to a [having] dispensing station[s] for adding liquid reagent to [and removing liquid reagent from] said slides;

a first heating element positioned on the moving platform, said first heating element adapted to move with the platform and to be located immediately adjacent to at least one microscope slide and having a first electrical power connection;

a second heating element positioned on the moving platform, said second heating element adapted to move with the platform and to be located immediately adjacent to at least one microscope slide and having a second electrical power connection, [said] separate electrical power connections [of] being provided to said first and second heating elements [being distinct from each other];

a motor drive capable of indexing said microscope slides adjacent to said dispensing station; and

electronic control for heating the [heaters] first and second heating elements.

33

9. (Amended) A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 8 further comprising a first temperature sensor, said first sensor positioned in [juxtaposition to] association with said first heating element for the purpose of sensing the temperature of said first heating element, and a second temperature sensor, said second sensor positioned in [juxtaposition to] association with said second heating element for the purpose of sensing the temperature of said second heating element.

Please add the following new claims:

11. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the heating elements underlie the slides.

12. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 14 wherein the heating elements are resistive heating elements.

13. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 15 wherein the heating elements are integrally formed in the heating stations.

14. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 5 wherein the heating elements underlie the slides.

15. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 17 wherein the first and second heating elements are resistive heating elements.

16. A microscope slide stainer as claimed in claim 18 wherein the heating elements are integrally formed in heating stations, each of which supports said at least one microscope slide.

23